

Message Text

SECRET

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15

ACTION INR-07

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R 181030Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO DIA

SECSTATE WASHDC 3604

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

CINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

S E C R E T MOGADISCIO 0288

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SO, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET FACILITY AT BUR GAVO

REF: JIDDA 121018Z FEB '76 (IR 6 884 0021 76)

1. REPORTS OF SOVIET FACILITY AT BUR GAVO HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING FOR SOME TIME. EGYPTIAN MIL ATTACHE'S OFFICE IN MOGADISCIO HAS CLAIMED FOR LAST YEAR OR SO THAT SOVIETS ULTIMATELY INTEND TO MAKE USE OF BUR GAVO FOR SOVIET SUBMARINES. FOR EGYPTIANS, HOWEVER, BUR GAVO HAS NOW TAKEN BACK SEAT TO CHISIMAYU AND BAJUINI ISLANDS AS SOVIET FOCAL POINTS, ALTHOUGH BUR GAVO IS STILL MENTIONED.

2. WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT BEEN GIVEN ANY SPECIFIC FACTS ABOUT NATURE OF SOVIET ACTIVITY AT BUR GAVO, IF SUCH ACTIVITY EXISTS. OUR SUSPICION IS THAT BECAUSE BUR GAVO WAS ONCE USED BY ITALIANS AS SUBMARINE BASE, EGYPTIANS AND OTHERS SUSPECT THAT IT WILL EVENTUALLY TEMPT USSR AS WELL, EGYPTIANS ARE WATCHING CLOSELY ROAD CONSTRUCTION TO SOUTH AS INDICATED THAT SOVIET FACILITIES, WHETHER AT CHISIMAYU, IN BAJUINIS OR AT BUR GAVO, ARE BECOMING OPERATIONAL.
LOUGHRAN

SECRET

NNN

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